

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of upgrading application software on a fault tolerant system having a first engine and a second engine, the first and second engine executing an application, the method comprising:

taking the second engine out of service;

upgrading the application on the second engine;

assigning the second engine as a standby engine to the first engine and receiving run state updates from the first engine;

assigning the first engine as the standby engine to the second engine and receiving run state updates from the second engine; and

upgrading the application on the first engine.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said upgrading the application on the second engine comprises disabling new features of the upgraded application.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said upgrading the application on the first engine comprises disabling new features of the upgraded application.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling new application features on the first and second engine.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said assigning the first engine as a standby to

the second engine comprises determining if the upgraded software is acceptable.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein if said upgraded software is not acceptable, assigning the first engine as an active engine.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein if said upgraded software is acceptable, taking the first engine out of service.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the application comprises at least one work unit.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the run state updates comprise a description of the at least one work unit.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein said first engine and second engine operate in synchronization.

11. A method for upgrading application software on a fault tolerant system having an active engine and a standby engine, said method comprising:

determining if said active engine and said standby engine are executing different versions of said application software;

sending a description of work units from the active engine to the standby engine;

and

sending database activities from the active engine to the standby engine.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

registering the work units at the standby engine.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

sending a step-up signal from the active engine to the standby engine with the description of work units.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the application software comprises the work units.

15. A fault tolerant system comprising:

a first engine;

a second engine;

a computer readable memory that stores instructions that when executed by said first and second engine cause the fault tolerant system to:

designate said first engine as an active engine and said second engine as a standby engine;

determine if said active engine and said standby engine are executing different versions of an application software;

send a description of work units from said active engine to said standby engine; and

send database activities from said active engine to said standby engine.

16. The system of claim 15, said instructions further causing said first and second engine to:

register the work units at the standby engine.

17. The system of claim 15, said instructions further causing said first and second engine to:

send a step-up signal from the active engine to the standby engine with the description of work units.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the application software comprises the work units.